



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily

June 16, 2011, 4:00 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

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Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

Flooding Updates Come Straight to You on Twitter/Facebook

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is now providing flooding updates on its new Facebook page and via Twitter. NEMA assistant director Al Berndt said, “In this day and age, using social media is a must. Twitter and Facebook are a direct, immediate link to the people of Nebraska.”

Numerous state agencies are continuing to work together to assist Nebraskans through the current flooding emergency. If you’re not on Twitter, consider signing up and following NEMA at

<http://www.twitter.com/nematweets> or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nema.page.

Prevent Mosquito Bites and Avoid Contact with Floodwaters

LINCOLN, Neb. – Flooding will result in an increased number of mosquitoes. Most of the new mosquitoes will be the nuisance kind that don’t carry West Nile Virus, but it’s still important to protect yourself because they can carry other diseases. Wear mosquito repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants and socks, avoid going out at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and eliminate or treat standing water.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) cautions the public about contact with any floodwaters, not just the water in the river, as standing pools or backwaters are also likely to be contaminated. The public is reminded to avoid contact with floodwater, and in the event of any contact that they keep their hands below their collars and do not eat or smoke until after they have washed their hands.

Sandbags to Help Eppley Airfield

The Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska National Guard are coordinating an effort to preposition 400 sandbags at Eppley Airfield. The 1.5 ton sandbags are used in aerial sandbagging operation. The sandbags will help conduct flood-fighting operations in the event of a levee incident.

Nebraska National Guard Update

There are 55 members of the Nebraska National Guard providing direct support of the flooding emergency. This number includes 12 members of the Nebraska Army National Guard assisting local emergency management officials in South Sioux City in 24-hour monitoring of Missouri River levees.

The Nebraska National Guard has also sent an additional Soldier to South Sioux City to act as a liaison with local emergency management officials.

The Nebraska National Guard is deploying an initial response force of 20 additional Guardsmen to help Omaha and Douglas County emergency management officials conduct 24-hour monitoring of Missouri River levees beginning tomorrow, June 17. Additional Guardsmen may be assigned to the mission as conditions warrant.

Five Nebraska Air National Guard Airmen are already on the ground in Omaha meeting with local emergency management officials as the advanced echelon for tomorrow's mission.

Road Closures

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) is discouraging any use of US 75 as a diversion or detour. US 75 in Nebraska has major construction and lane restrictions in several areas from south to north. Those being: Just south of Omaha near the Platte River and again north of Omaha and Decatur north. These areas could also experience a flooding closure. NDOR is recommending using US 77 and US 81 coming north from Kansas.

Information regarding road closures can be found at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/.

Hwy 12 closed east of Verdel to Niobrara State Park Recreation Road. The state park is open.

Hwy 12 closed one mile east of Niobrara to the Santee Spur (S-54D)

Hwy 14/37 is closed from the junction with Hwy 12 to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge)

Hwy 30 closed between North Platte airport to Maxwell viaduct due to water over the road. Detour from Newberry Link (L56G) to I-80 to Maxwell (S-56A)

I-680 into Iowa closed due to closure of I-29 in Iowa

Hwy 75 at La Platte to the Platte River will be head to head traffic in the northbound lane with the southbound lane closed until fall 2011

Shelters open/ Red Cross

Fort Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln St.

South Sioux City Middle School, 3625 G St.

Peru Shelter to be opened tonight at Neal Hall at Peru State College, 600 Hoyt Street.

River Levels

National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of today:

Platte River

Henry – 6.24 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet

Mitchell – 9.12 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Minatare – 7.15 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Bridgeport – 8.46 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet

Lisco – 4.22 feet, flood stage is 4 feet

Lewellen – 8.27 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

North Platte – 7.49 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Brady – 7.93 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Cozad – 5.83 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Overton – 6.19 feet, flood stage is 7 feet

Kearney – 5.76 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Grand Island – 5.65 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Duncan – 5.65 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

North Bend – 5.12 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Leshara – 5.93 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Ashland – 16.47 feet, flood stage is 20 feet

Louisville – 5.08 feet, flood stage is 9 feet

Missouri River

Verdel – 29.01 feet, flood stage is 24 feet

Niobrara – 26.45 feet, flood stage is 21 feet,

South Sioux City – 33.02 feet, flood stage is 30 feet

Decatur – 37.6 feet, flood stage is 35 feet

Blair – 31.52 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

Omaha – 33.24 feet, flood stage is 29 feet

Plattsmouth – 34.05 feet, flood stage 26 feet

Nebraska City – 25.91 feet, flood stage 18 feet

Brownville – 40.33 feet, flood stage is 33 feet

Rulo – 23.92 feet, flood stage is 17 feet

[Flood Information - Informacion de Inundaciones](#) - resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov and click Flood Information - Informacion de Inundaciones in the Quick Links. Para información de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos

County Updates

Garden County

Road 199A is closed from road 46 to the junction at Hwy 26/92 due to water over the road

Scottsbluff County

County road F west of Morrill is now a one-lane, local traffic only road

County road 36 is flooded and closed two miles east of McGrew

Sarpy County

Gene C. Epply has vacated its 56 campers and cancelled all of its summer camps.

List of County Emergency Managers

List of Nebraska Local Health Departments

Past news releases, Facebook and Twitter updates are available by selecting the icons below.



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